ICS NEWSPAPER

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ICS Celebrates Republic Day: The Importance of the 29th of October



On October 29, we proudly celebrate the founding of the Republic of Turkey — a turning point that reshaped our nation's destiny and laid the foundations of modern life. This special issue is dedicated to the ideals that the Republic brought to our people: freedom, equality, progress, and the power of education. We honor Atatürk's vision and the countless individuals who built a new society with determination and hope. Through art, culture, and the "silent revolutions" carried out in every field — especially by the women and youth of our nation — we continue to keep the flame of the Republic alive. Let us celebrate not only the day of its proclamation, but the living spirit of the Republic that guides us toward the future.

The Republic: Rebirth of a Nation

The founding of the Republic of Turkey under Mustafa Kemal Atatürk was more than a political shift—it was the rebirth of a nation. Replacing monarchy with the sovereignty of the people, the Republic established secular governance, equality before the law, and new rights for women. Reforms in education, language, and the economy fostered national unity and modernization, while an independent foreign policy earned Turkey global respect. A century later, the spirit of the Republic endures as both a legacy of progress and a guiding vision for the nation's future.

Read more on pages 2 and 3.

Painting During the Republican Era

From the founding of the Republic, Atatürk emphasized art as a vital element of national modernization rather than propaganda. Artists were encouraged to work freely, drawing inspiration from Anatolian landscapes, village life, and social transformations. The state supported exhibitions, art education, and international study opportunities, while women increasingly participated in artistic production. Iconic works reflected societal progress, literacy campaigns, and the new roles of women, shaping a vibrant Turkish art scene.

Read more on pages 4 & 5.

The Silent Revolution of Women in the Republic

The proclamation of the Republic in 1923 transformed not only government but the very fabric of society, with women emerging as its quiet yet powerful architects. Granted access to education, women became teachers, role models, and agents of a silent revolution that reshaped communities. Political rights followed, enabling women to vote, serve in parliament, and participate in public life. Step by step, in schools, workplaces, and cultural life, women changed their own lives and the future of the nation, inspiring new generations.

Read more on pages 9 & 10.

What the Republican Revolutions Brought to Turkey

by ***Fatih Selçuk***

The establishment of the Republic of Turkey represents not only a political regime change but also a multidimensional social transformation. The decline and dissolution of the Ottoman Empire, which lasted for centuries, came to an end with the First World War; A new nation-state was born from this historical breaking point. In this sense, the Republic is not the name of a rupture, but a reconstruction. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk and the revolutions carried out under his leadership not only formed the basis of modern Turkey, but also opened the doors to a radical transformation in social, political, cultural and economic life. In this article, I would like to discuss what the Republican revolutions brought to Turkey in terms of political, social, cultural and economic aspects.



Political Gains: Transition of Sovereignty to the Nation

The most important achievement of the Republic is that it bases the source of sovereignty on the concept of "nation". In the Ottoman period, a monarchy ruling in the name of God was switched to a management approach based on the will of the people. With the proclamation of the Republic on October 29, 1923, the principle of "sovereignty unconditionally belongs to the nation" was placed on the basis of political life. This understanding has formed the upper roof of all the revolutions that have made Turkey a modern nation-state.

The abolition of the sultanate does not only mean the loss of a sultan's throne; it also shows that the source of political legitimacy has changed. In the same direction, the abolition of the caliphate put an end to the decisive power of religious authority on politics. These steps laid the foundation of secularism and ensured that the state settled in a neutral position towards religion. This secular political structure brought by the Republic played a critical role in both Turkey's integration with the Western world and the preservation of social peace.

Revolution in Law and Education: Building a Rational and Egalitarian Society

One of the most lasting results of the Republican revolutions is the transformation of the legal system. The Turkish Civil Code, which came into force in 1926, brought the equality of men and women to the legal level and established the principle of secularism in the family structure. Thus, women have become an equal subject not only in social life but also before the law. This change is one of the most important turning points in Turkey's modernization adventure.

Reforms in the field of education are also revolutionary. Ensuring unity in education with the Law on Unification of Education has been decisive in the formation of national identity and secular consciousness. The Alphabet Revolution is not only the change of writing, but also the liberation of thought. The adoption of the Latin alphabet facilitated the spread of literacy; with the simplification movement in the language, Turkish has become the language of the people. In Atatürk's words, "If ten percent of a nation knows how to read and write, and ninety percent does not, there is a lack of spiritual ties between the members of that nation." The Alphabet Revolution aimed to eliminate this disconnection and succeeded to a great extent.

Transformation in Women's Rights: Towards Gender Equality

What the Republic has brought to women is one of the most concrete indicators of the modernization process. For the first time, women became visible in the public sphere, gained the right to education, and had the opportunity to acquire a profession and participate in political life. Granting the right to participate in municipal elections in 1930 and general elections in 1934 is a step forward on a world scale. At that time, even in many European countries, women did not have

these rights.
This change would mean a major revolution, not only at the legal level, but also in the field of mentality. Women, who were seen as "private" in the patriarchal structure of Ottoman society, became a "public subject" with the Republic. The roots of women's achievements in the fields of education, art, science and politics today go back to these bold steps of the 1920s.

Economic Gains: The Independent Development Model

The most distinctive feature of the Republican revolutions in the economic field is that they aim to complete national sovereignty with economic independence. With the abolition of capitulations after the Treaty of Lausanne, Turkey gained its freedom in economic terms. The statist policy implemented in the 1930s encouraged industrialization and production; Institutions such as Sümerbank, Etibank, Iron and Steel Factories were established and economic development was planned.

Izmir Economics Congress is the first step that determines the economic vision of the Republic. This vision aimed both to protect national capital and to combine industrialization with social welfare. Agricultural reforms for the peasants, the spread of agricultural banking and production policies based on soil fertility laid the foundations of the transition from agricultural society to industrial society. Atatürk's words, "No matter how great political and military victories are, they will be fruitless if they are not crowned with economic victories" is a concise expression of this understanding.

Cultural and Social Rebirth: The Construction of National Identity

The cultural achievements of the Republic played a decisive role in the formation of national consciousness. The establishment of the Turkish Historical Society and the Turkish Language Society aimed to establish national identity on scientific foundations. Thanks to these institutions, history has become a critical science, free from myths; language has been redefined as an element of national consciousness. The establishment of the understanding of national history in education has strengthened the sense of belonging of young generations.

A similar transformation has taken place in the field of art. A synthesis of traditional motifs and modern understanding has been created in music, painting, theater and architecture. The conservatories opened in Ankara have made art not only an elite occupation but also a part of society. In short, the Republic adopted cultural development as a public duty by making art a state policy.

Positioning in the International Arena: A Peaceful and Respected State

The greatest foreign policy achievement of the Republic is the establishment of an independent and peaceful understanding of diplomacy in line with the principle of "Peace at home, peace in the world". Turkey became an equal member of the international system after Lausanne and reinforced this status by becoming a member of the League of Nations in 1932. Developments such as the Montreux Straits Convention, Hatay's accession to the motherland and the Balkan Pact are examples of success of the Republican diplomacy tradition.

In this respect, the Republican revolutions brought about not only a transformation internally, but also an external gain in prestige. An independent foreign policy approach kept Turkey out of colonialism; the young Republic has been a source of inspiration for oppressed nations.

Republican revolutions represent a mentality, not a period. This mentality is an understanding that takes reason and science as a guide and makes social progress a state policy. Every modernization debate that Turkey faces today is, in a sense, related to the legacy of these revolutions. The path opened by the Republic in every field, from education to industry, from women's rights to foreign policy, continues to shape the identity of a modern nation.

The achievements of the Republic are not only the achievements of the past, but also the compass of the future. Because the Republic is not a "destination", but a continuous renewal and progress process. In Atatürk's words, "The Republic wants strong and high-character protectors in thought, knowledge and health." This saying reminds us that the Republic is not only a form of government, but also a morality, a consciousness and a responsibility.

Painting in Turkey During the Republican Era

by ***Gökçe Yüksel***

Although there were both material and moral difficulties during the establishment phase of the Republic of Turkey, it is seen that a cultural and artistic policy was defined and put into practice. Atatürk regarded art as an indispensable element for the newly founded Republic of Turkey and emphasized its importance at every opportunity.

While speaking with tradesmen in Adana in 1923, he said:

> *"A nation deprived of art means that one of the lifelines of that nation has been severed. One of the historical characteristics of the Turkish nation, which is a high human society, is to love and to excel in fine arts."*

That same year, while addressing the public at the Şark Cinema in Bursa, he said:

> *"A nation that does not paint, a nation that does not make sculptures — it must be admitted that such a nation has no place in progress."*

Throughout history, it has been observed that states and governments establish their own art policies, exert pressure on art, and use it as a means of promoting their ideologies. For example, in the same period, in Soviet Russia or Nazi Germany, art acquired a political identity. However, the situation in the young Republic of Turkey must be evaluated differently. Among the great revolutions of the world, Atatürk is the only leader who regarded art not as a tool of propaganda but as a part of national modernization.

Therefore, especially in the fields of culture, art, and education, the concept of national identity was emphasized. It was believed that the transformation of society on the path to modernization would be more effective through national elements. Artists were encouraged and given opportunities to open exhibitions, and a secular and free environment for artistic production was provided.

Painters, too, could not remain indifferent to the new, developing, and transforming social structure; therefore, they produced works that would encourage the people, drawing their subjects mostly from local elements, Anatolian landscapes, the years of mobilization, scenes from village life, and the revolutions.

Although art policy in the early years was completely based on national identity, it can be said that artists created their works in a free environment. For the Republic of Turkey supported its artists while at the same time providing them with a secular and free space. The fact that out of 22 students sent abroad in 1924, five were painters (Cevat Dereli, Mahmud Cuda, Refik Epikman, Muhittin Sebati, Şeref Akdik) is a result of this understanding.

During this period, painters addressed a wide variety of subjects and freely reflected different perspectives onto their canvases both technically and in terms of expression. For instance, the term *Mekkâre* in Zeki Kocamemi's work refers to the transportation of goods by pack animals. In this painting, the artist included the animals as if they were rankless soldiers, conferring upon them a sense of heroism through his depiction. Painters presented their sensitivities to the audience through their own perspectives.



Figure 1. *Zeki Kocamemi, Mekkare Erleri*, oil on canvas, 123 x 195.5 cm, *Istanbul Museum of Painting and Sculpture*, 1935.

The most important exhibition venues of the period were the *People's Houses (Halkevleri)*. In 1937, upon Atatürk's order, the first *State Museum of Painting and Sculpture* was opened in Istanbul. In 1938, artists began their *Homeland Tours*. In 1939, under the patronage of the state, *State Painting and Sculpture Exhibitions* were initiated, bringing together all art unions and independent artists under one roof. Artworks were purchased and hung in government offices, prizes were awarded, and competitions were organized.

The first and second exhibitions were inaugurated by Prime Minister Dr. Refik Saydam, and the third by Minister of National Education Hasan Âli Yücel. This

tradition still continues today, and in 2025, the 77th *State Painting and Sculpture Exhibition* will be held, continuing to support artists. The painting *On the Path of Revolution* (*İnkılâp Yolunda*, Figure 2), created by Zeki Faik İzer in 1933 for the *First Revolution Exhibition*, reflects the spirit of the period.



Figure 2. *Zeki Faik İzer*, *On the Path of Revolution* (*İnkılâp Yolunda*), oil on canvas, 176 × 236 cm.

However, another painting by Zeki Faik İzer attracted Atatürk's attention even more; he stood in front of it for a long time and asked those beside him, "I really like this painting; have you acquired it?" What drew Atatürk's attention was that the painting depicted the progress of Turkish women, who had just begun to take new roles in society. In the painting, a female teacher is teaching the new Latin alphabet to village women. This scene, which impressed Atatürk, further emphasizes the importance of the Republic for Turkish women (Figure 3).

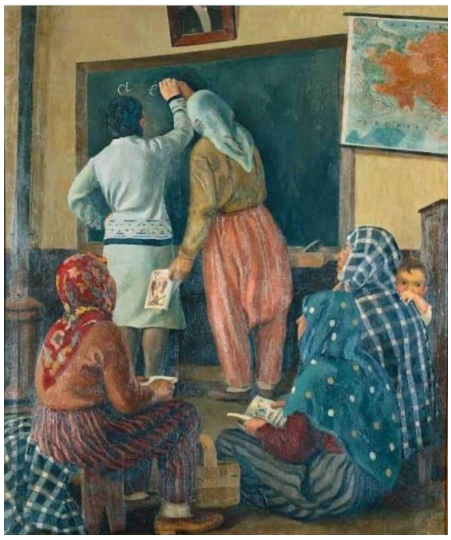


Figure 3. *Şeref Akdik*, *Literacy Campaign / National School* (*Okuma Yazma Seferberliği / Millet Mektebi*), oil on canvas, 180 × 150 cm, *Istanbul Museum of Painting and Sculpture*, 1933.

We can say that the participation of women in art production in Turkey occurred as a result of Westernization movements in the second half of the 19th century. However, it is evident that the artistic and educational identities of Turkish women became more pronounced during the Republican period.

Mihri Müşfik and *Müfide Kadri* became symbols of this modernization movement in art and were the first women painters to initiate modern painting in Turkey. They also led the education of the first generation of female artists. *Celile Hikmet Enver, Melek (Ziya) Celal Sofu, Nazlı Ecevit, Maide Arel, Eren Eyüboğlu, Şükriye Dikmen, and Mürşide İçmeli* are among other successful women painters who made their mark during the Republican period.

During the Republican era, regardless of gender, the Turkish nation worked tirelessly—despite all kinds of hardship—to create a new and modern society in fields such as industry, agriculture, transportation, and education. Artists, in turn, did their utmost to fulfill their duty in the development of this new, modern society.

Thanks to the achievements of the Republic, today Turkish artists are making their names known worldwide, taking part in international biennials, world-renowned art projects, and major exhibitions.

İzmir Weather Forecast

***Friday**, 31 October & **Saturday**, 1 November*

Today, you'll see a high of around **21 °C (70 °F)** with the current temperature at about **20 °C (68 °F)**. Humidity is moderate, hovering around **72%**, which gives a somewhat muggy feel in the morning that eases as the day warms. The barometric pressure is approximately **1020 hPa**, indicating stable weather, and the wind is light — coming from the south-south-east at about **8 km/h (5 mph)** with gusts up to ~**9 mph**. Expect the skies to shift from partly sunny to cloudier later in the day.

Tomorrow brings a slightly warmer high of around **23 °C (74 °F)** with overnight lows near **12 °C (54 °F)**. Humidity is expected to drop slightly to around **68%**, giving a fresher feel. Wind remains gentle, staying under ~**10 mph**, and the pressure should remain steady at about **1020-1021 hPa**. In short: calm skies, light breezes, moderate humidity, and comfortable temperatures.

In the Light of a Leader

by ***Handan Akyel***

While there is so much to say, one realizes how inadequate words are when one sees the traces left in hearts by the past struggle for independence, the fire of sovereignty, and the struggle for existence. With a love that grows with remembrance, gratitude, and respect, and at the same time, a longing felt even though we may never see it, we celebrate the founding of our Republic in the footsteps and light of Atatürk, who illuminated the darkness.

Mere celebration is not enough; we must internalize, understand, delve into its essence, protect, and, most importantly, preserve its existence. The path to light from darkness lies in hearing the voice of conscience, compassion, reason, and science within our hearts.

When we free ourselves from fear, despair, and apathy, uphold this legacy, guide young people correctly, and convey what the word Republic truly means, how it came into being, and how it must be kept alive, then the Republic of Turkey will truly live forever. Happy Republic Day in the light of Atatürk.

Les Révolutions d'Atatürk

by ***Betül Sülün Deniz***

Atatürk était non seulement un génie militaire et un leader charismatique, mais aussi un grand révolutionnaire. À cette époque, moderniser la République de Turquie pour l'élever au niveau des civilisations contemporaines et devenir un membre actif des sociétés culturellement avancées était crucial. Entre 1924 et 1938, Atatürk mena des révolutions essentielles à la libération et à la survie de son peuple et visait à « élever la Turquie au niveau de la civilisation contemporaine ». Ces révolutions, accueillies avec un grand enthousiasme par le peuple turc, peuvent être regroupées sous cinq rubriques :

- *Révolutions politiques*
- *Abolition du Sultanat (1er novembre 1922)*
- *Proclamation de la République (29 octobre 1923)*
- *Abolition du califat (3 mars 1924)*

Révolutions Sociales

Accorder aux femmes l'égalité des droits avec les hommes (1926-1934)

Avec les révolutions d'Atatürk, les femmes turques, négligées pendant des siècles, se sont vu accorder de nouveaux droits. Ainsi, en vertu du code civil adopté, les femmes ont obtenu les mêmes droits que les hommes, notamment le droit d'être nommées à des postes officiels, de voter et d'être élues à l'Assemblée nationale. Le principe de monogamie et l'égalité des droits accordées aux femmes ont revitalisé la société turque.

Révolution du chapeau et du vêtement (25 novembre 1925)

Avec la révolution vestimentaire, les femmes ont abandonné le tchador pour adopter des vêtements féminins modernes. Les hommes ont remplacé les fez par des chapeaux.

Fermeture des loges et sanctuaires derviches (30 novembre 1925)

Loi sur les noms de famille (21 juin 1934)

Selon la loi votée par la Grande Assemblée nationale, les Turcs ont reçu des noms de famille et le chef de la nation a reçu le nom de famille Atatürk, qui signifie « Père des Turcs ».

Suppression des surnoms et des titres (26 novembre 1934)

Heure et calendrier internationaux (1925) et adoption des mesures de longueur (1931)

Révolution Juridique

Abolition de la Mecelle (1924-1937)

Le Code civil turc et d'autres lois furent promulgués, et un système juridique laïc fut adopté (1924-1937).

Le nouvel État turc, établi en 1920, avait besoin d'un nouveau système juridique. Atatürk remplaça la charia par le Code civil suisse et le Code pénal alors en vigueur par le Code pénal italien. Le système juridique turc fut modernisé pour répondre aux besoins contemporains.

Révolutions dans l'Éducation et la Culture

Unification de l'éducation (3 mars 1924)

Adoption du nouvel alphabet turc (1er novembre 1928)

L'une des réformes les plus importantes d'Atatürk fut l'abolition de l'alphabet arabe et l'adoption de l'alphabet latin. Le nouvel alphabet turc fut adopté le 3 novembre 1928.

Création des institutions de langue et d'histoire turques (1931-1932)

La réorganisation de l'enseignement universitaire – La laïcisation de l'éducation (31 mai 1933).

Jusqu'au début du XIXe siècle, l'Empire ottoman comptait différents systèmes éducatifs. Atatürk comprit que le système des madrasas islamiques ne pouvait répondre aux besoins de la nouvelle société. Il devint donc nécessaire de créer un nouveau système éducatif inspiré des modèles occidentaux. Le système existant fut donc modifié et une réforme universitaire fut mise en œuvre en 1933.

- Innovations dans les beaux-arts
- Révolutions dans le domaine de l'économie
- Abolition de la dîme
- Encourager les agriculteurs
- Création de fermes modèles
- Création d'établissements industriels par la promulgation de la loi d'encouragement de l'industrie
- La mise en œuvre des plans de développement I et II (1933-1937) et l'équipement du pays en nouvelles routes

Œuvres d'Atatürk sur l'Histoire Turque

Après la révolution de l'écriture, qui était une forme de nationalisme dans le domaine culturel, Atatürk s'est concentré sur l'histoire et a fondé la Société historique turque en 1931. Ici, l'histoire turque est étudiée et évaluée de manière exhaustive.

Autres Révolutions

Loi du week-end de 1924, Code des obligations et Code de commerce de 1926.

The Meaning of the Republic for Me

by ***Duru Yetgin (9A)***

The Republic is a form of government based on the principle that the people exercise sovereignty through their own will. This means that the government is shaped according to the needs and demands of the people, through representatives elected by them. At the core of the Republic lie equality, freedom, and the pursuit of justice. Unlike monarchies, which rely on the sovereignty of a king or a single ruler, the Republic places the will of the people at the forefront. The Republic has many important aspects and achievements:

Sovereignty Belongs to the People

The most fundamental feature of the Republic is that sovereignty belongs to the people. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of the Republic of Turkey, emphasized the people's right to self-governance by stating, "Sovereignty unconditionally belongs to the nation." This means that the administration of the state takes place only with the consent of the people—through representatives chosen by election. Every individual has an equal right to vote, and this ensures participation in the functioning of the state.

Democracy and the Rule of Law

The Republic prioritizes democracy and the supremacy of law. In a democratic system, all citizens are equal before the law, and all actions of the state must comply with legal frameworks. The Republic ensures that rulers are accountable to the people. Leaders who come to power through elections are subject to public oversight, and their actions must be transparent.

Education and Science

The Republic aims for individuals to become enlightened through education, for society to progress, and for scientific thinking to be prioritized. Atatürk carried out revolutions in education, emphasizing that educating the public was the key to reaching the level of contemporary civilizations. Every individual was granted the right to education, and women were encouraged to pursue learning. The spread of education enables individuals to improve themselves and contribute to the development of society.

Women's Rights and Equality

One of the most important achievements of the Republic is women's rights. With the Republic, Atatürk granted women the right to vote and to be elected. This was a major step not only for Turkey but also for the advancement of women's rights worldwide. With the Republic, women began to play a more active role in social, economic, and cultural life. In this sense, the Republic marked a significant step toward gender equality.

Secularism and the Relationship Between Religion and State

The Republic, based on secularism, separated religious affairs from state affairs. Secularism asserts that the state must be independent of religious influence. With the establishment of the Republic, interference of religion in state matters was prevented, while freedom of religion was also secured. This allows everyone to practice their beliefs freely, while ensuring that the state does not discriminate on the basis of religion.

National Independence and Freedom

The Republic also represents national independence and freedom. The internal and external pressures experienced during the final years of the Ottoman Empire led the people to fight a great struggle for liberty. Under Atatürk's leadership, the War of Independence secured the nation's sovereignty and paved the way for the proclamation of the Republic. This represents not only a form of government but also the people's attainment of free will and the reinforcement of the country's independence.

Social Reforms

The Republic also brought revolutions in the social sphere. Under Atatürk's leadership, profound changes were made in Turkey's social structure. A new education system was established, legal reforms were enacted, literacy increased with the alphabet reform, numerous rights were granted to women, and modernization steps were taken in clothing and lifestyle. These reforms gave society a modern identity and a more democratic structure.

In conclusion,

The Republic is not only a form of government but also a way of life and a vision of society. Remembering Atatürk's words, "The Republic is a government based on freedom of thought and freedom of conscience," we understand that the Republic allows every individual to think freely and shape their life according to their own will. Even today, these achievements are values that must be protected by defending the rights and freedoms of every member of society.

Opinion: The "Hodjas" Executed in the Early Republic

by ***Zeynep Köksoy (11A)***

The early years of the Turkish Republic were marked not only by state-building but by a radical transformation of mindset. Atatürk and his colleagues sought to free the nation from centuries of clerical dominance that had hindered progress.

The Şeyh Sait Rebellion (1925) was one of the first major challenges. Led by religious figures like Sheikh Said, the uprising exploited faith to rally people against the new Republic. Among those tried and executed were several imams and religious leaders — Sheikh Said, Sheikh Abdullah, Molla Kasım, Hacı Ali Efendi — not for their beliefs, but for inciting armed rebellion against the state.



Later, during the Menemen Incident (1930), a religious group led by Dervish Mehmet called for the return of Sharia law and brutally murdered young officer Lieutenant Kubilay. The perpetrators were captured and executed following due legal process.

Thus, when we hear claims like "Atatürk executed imams," we must separate myth from fact.
Yes, some clerics were executed; No, they were not punished for being religious, but for taking part in violent revolts threatening the integrity of the young Republic.
Atatürk's struggle was never against religion — it was against those who weaponized it to enslave minds. His vision was a Turkey grounded in reason, science, and justice, where faith is a matter of conscience, not control.

From London to Paris: A Journey Through Dickens' World

by ***Mirsini Gounari (11A)***



Charles Dickens' A Tale of Two Cities isn't just a story about history—it's a story about people, choices, and courage. Set in London and Paris during the French Revolution, the novel explores a world of extremes: wealth and poverty, love and loss, hope and despair.

Dickens' famous opening line, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times…", perfectly captures the tension and drama of the era. The story follows characters like Sydney Carton, Charles Darnay, and Lucie Manette as they navigate danger, injustice, and personal sacrifice. Carton's journey, in particular, shows how one person's bravery and selflessness can make a huge difference.

While the novel gives us a window into history, it also explores themes that are still relevant today—friendship, loyalty, and the fight against unfairness. It's a thrilling read that combines action, emotion, and unforgettable characters.

The Silent Revolution of the Women of the Republic

by ***Yonca Turuşlar (11A)***

The proclamation of the Republic on October 29, 1923, did not merely change a system of government; it also transformed the fundamental structure of society, the way people lived, and their entire mindset. The quietest yet most influential heroes of this great transformation were the women of Turkey. For centuries, women had been deprived of many rights and freedoms, but with the Republic, they began to give new direction and new shape to their lives.

Before the Republic, women's access to education was limited, they had no voice in politics, and participation in working life was almost impossible. Most women were confined to a life restricted to household and family responsibilities. However, the Republic first granted women the right to education. As educational opportunities expanded from

primary to higher education, women began serving as teachers in village schools, becoming role models within society. These teachers did not only educate children; by nurturing intelligent and conscious individuals, they carried out a silent revolution.

Following educational rights, the Republic granted women political rights. In the 1930s, women gained the right to vote in municipal elections, and in 1934, the right both to vote and to stand for election in parliamentary elections. These rights made women visible not only in their homes but also in the public sphere. The women who served in parliament began to take part in decision-making processes, upholding and spreading the values of the Republic. These steps marked the beginning of a quiet yet profound transformation.

The revolution carried out by the women of the Republic was not a flamboyant one; it did not happen through street protests, but rather step by step in every aspect of life. A village teacher carried out a revolution by providing modern education to children; a worker did so by contributing to the economy in a factory; a writer or artist by influencing social thought. Through their courage and determination, women changed not only their own lives but also the future of the entire society!

This silent revolution continues to make its impact felt today. Seeing successful women in every field across Turkey is possible thanks to the confidence, courage, and equality of opportunity that the Republic gave to women. In education, science, art, politics, and sports, women continue to keep alive the values of the Republic!

The silent revolution of the women of the Republic also raised social awareness and strengthened justice. As women became educated, free, and conscious, they made great contributions to the social, cultural, and economic development of society. Today, every woman serves as a living representative of this revolution—a bridge connecting the past and the future.

And now, as the grandchildren of that silent revolution, it is our duty as young people to protect and develop this legacy. The Republic is not merely a piece of history; it is a way of life that we must keep alive every day, uphold its values, and carry it forward. To understand the silent revolution of women is not only to learn about the past but also to draw inspiration to shape the future.

The women of the Republic achieved a great revolution through silent steps. Their courage and determination serve as a guiding light for us, the youth of today. To continue this revolution and keep it alive in every field is our responsibility—because the Republic is a living body of values that must be preserved by every generation.

Atatürk's Legacy in the Light of the Republic & Secularism

*by **Zeynep Ece Yılmaz (10A)***



The Republic is the most concrete expression of the Turkish nation's determination to shape its own destiny after centuries of struggle. Proclaimed on October 29, 1923, under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the Republic was not merely a change in the system of government—it was a profound transformation of mentality, culture, and society.

One of the cornerstones of this transformation is secularism. Secularism is the guarantee of individual freedom of conscience and the essential condition for a just and impartial state. Atatürk's understanding of secularism separated religion from state affairs, creating an environment in which all citizens could live freely. It is not only a constitutional principle but also a symbol of modernization, reason, and the guidance of science.

In Atatürk's thought, Turkism represents the unity and solidarity of the nation—an embrace of cultural roots while developing in harmony with the modern world. Turkism is not based on race, but on shared history, language, culture, and ideals. Atatürk wanted the Turkish nation to rise by preserving its identity, and his words "Ne mutlu Türküm diyene!" ("How happy is the one who says 'I am a Turk!'") embody this spirit for generations to come.

Today, in the second century of our Republic, the meaning of Atatürk's legacy has become even deeper. The principles of secularism, Turkism, and the Republic remain the foundation of free thought, science, equality, and national identity. To follow the path of contemporary civilization shown by Atatürk is not only to honor the past but also to fulfill our responsibility to the future.

Declaration by Atatürk to the Turkish Youth

*In **Turkish** & **English***

"Ey Türk gençliği! Birinci vazifen; Türk istiklalini, Türk cumhuriyetini, ilelebet muhafaza ve müdafaa etmektir.

Mevcudiyetinin ve istikbalinin yegâne temeli budur. Bu temel, senin en kıymetli hazinendir. İstikbalde dahi seni bu hazineden mahrum etmek isteyecek dâhilî ve haricî bedhahların olacaktır. Bir gün, istiklal ve cumhuriyeti müdafaa mecburiyetine düşersen, vazifeye atılmak için içinde bulunacağın vaziyetin imkân ve şeraitini düşünmeyeceksin. Bu imkân ve şerait, çok namüsait bir mahiyette tezahür edebilir. İstiklal ve cumhuriyetine kastedecek düşmanlar, bütün dünyada emsali görülmemiş bir galibiyetin mümessili olabilirler. Cebren ve hile ile aziz vatanın bütün kaleleri zapt edilmiş, bütün tersanelerine girilmiş, bütün orduları dağıtılmış ve memleketin her köşesi bilfiil işgal edilmiş olabilir. Bütün bu şeraitten daha elim ve daha vahim olmak üzere, memleketin dâhilinde iktidara sahip olanlar, gaflet ve dalalet ve hatta hıyanet içinde bulunabilirler. Hatta bu iktidar sahipleri, şahsi menfaatlerini müstevlilerin siyasi emelleriyle tevhit edebilirler. Millet, fakruzaruret içinde harap ve bitap düşmüş olabilir.

Ey Türk istikbalinin evladı! İşte, bu ahval ve şerait içinde dahi vazifen, Türk istiklal ve cumhuriyetini kurtarmaktır. Muhtaç olduğun kudret, damarlarındaki asil kanda mevcuttur."

"Turkish Youth!

Your first duty is forever to preserve and to defend the turkish Independence and the Turkish Republic.

This is the very foundation of your existence and your future. This foundation is your most precious treasure. In the future, too, there may be malevolent people at home and abroad who will wish to deprive you of this treasure. If some day you are compelled to defend your independence and your republic, you must not tarry to weigh the possibilities and circumstances of the situation before taking up your duty. These possibilities and circumstances may turn out to be extremely unfavourable. The enemies conspiring against your independence and your republic, may have behind them a victory unprecedented in the annals of the world. It may be that, by violence and ruse, all the fortresses of your beloved fatherland may be captured, all its shipyards occupied, all its armies dispersed and every part of the country invaded. And sadder and graver than all these circumstances, those who hold power within the country may be in error, misguided and may even be traitors. Furthermore, they may indentify their personal interests with the political designs of the invaders. The country may be impoverished, ruined and exhausted.

Youth of turkey's future,

Even in such circumstances it is your duty to save the Turkish Independence and Republic.

You will find the strength you need in your noble blood."

29th of October Celebrations at ICS

Together, our teachers and students celebrated the 102nd Anniversary of the Republic with pride and joy!

On stage, in classrooms, and in every heart echoed the same belief: "The Republic is our greatest legacy."

Through songs, poems, and smiles, our students carried the spirit of the Republic into the future.

Today, our students sang not just a song, but a legacy — the 10th Year March — celebrating freedom, unity, and progress.

With knowledge, art, and courage, the Republic will shine forever through the generations.

With love and pride, the ICS family wishes everyone a Happy Republic Day!











Thank you for reading, and supporting the ICS Journalism Club.

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