

**Kemal's New Policies for Turkey**

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## Kemal's New Policies for Turkey

**According to Brower and Sanders, and Veaser, what did Kemal introduce as new policies for the republic of Turkey?**

Progress of nations requires reforms through a leader who is not afraid to introduce them despite the varying views of citizens. Different societies in the past adopted modernization by practicing contemporary actions of developed communities. Turkey is one of the communities that embraced modernization through its leader Kemal Ataturk, a military and charismatic reformer. Various reasons informed Kemal's introduction of new policies for the republic of Turkey. His primary reason for their introduction was that they were instrumental in the salvation and survival of the Turkish people.

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By launching drastic reforms in Turkey's political, social, and economic life, Ataturk Kemal sought to transform the country into a modernized state quickly. He believed that the country's past links were anachronistic and thus stopped associating with its ideologies. The reforms had two conflicting sides to Turkish culture. On the one hand, legal secularism rules built along European lines impacted Islamic women, families, and relationships among Turkish nationals.<sup>1</sup> The President encouraged the citizens to look and act like Europeans, especially in their dressing styles. Among the bold new policies that he introduced was ballroom dancing in official functions that are the customs of the Western culture.

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<sup>1</sup> Ozbek, Pinar. 2022. "Mustafa Kemal Ataturk And His Reforms". *Sites.Psu.Edu*.  
<https://sites.psu.edu/global/2018/02/08/mustafa-kemal-ataturk-and-his-reforms/>

Additionally, the President introduced the adoption of surnames starting with himself as an example when he referred to himself as Kemal Atatürk. Furthermore, ancient emblems of Turkish culture were removed, such as the donning of the Fez as a progressive change to substitute the turban, after it became a regressive patriotic symbol during the Ottoman regime. His radicalization branded Kemalism consisted of six institutions: nationalism, populism, reformism, secularism, statism, and republicanism.

Language reform in the Republic of Turkey is among the significant and bold steps that Kemal imposed on his country when he assumed power. He anticipated revising the Turkish language to develop a new national identity distinct from the old version as one of the modes in which he viewed modernity and constructing a new Turkey. Military personnel, religious elites, and civil servants all spoke Ottoman Turkish in the state. The language was a mixture of Turkish, Arabic, and Persian. Notably, religious texts and laws were written and communicated through Arabic, art, refined literature, and diplomacy were expressed through the Persian language. At the same time, the Ottoman Empire conducted its administrative services in the Turkish language.

Atatürk's main aim in having a language reform was to introduce a more Turkish, practical, precise, and less complicated language compared to the numerous ancient languages that were used in the country. His major step in the language reforms was the adoption of new alphabets and the purification of the existing vocabularies. In May 1928, Arabic numerals were substituted with their western equivalents, and a panel of experts recommended the new Latin alphabet to the Upper House of Parliament in November.<sup>2</sup> In addition, the government took the initiative of purifying the language as a national cause by ensuring dictionaries dropped Arabic and Persian words.

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<sup>2</sup> Kartarı, Asker. 2014. "The Culture And Education Policies And The Cultural Sciences In Turkey ." *Ethnologia Balkanica*, no. 17: 283-296.

Moreover, the Secularist reforms involved the abolition of the Caliphate that the Ottoman Sultanate held for a century and the introduction of a secular state. These reforms affected Islam as a religion since there was the abolition of any ruler who claimed the spiritual leadership of Islam. Turkey, the heir to the Ottoman Empire, the presumptive leader of the Muslim community, was withdrawn, symbolizing the direction and change Ataturk wanted for his country. The establishment of secularism in Turkey separated different national entities from the religious aspects to ensure zero interference due to different ways of life. The previous way of life in the Ottoman Empire involved Islam religion ruling all spheres of life, including the non-religious aspects. An example of the religious spheres' reforms was the Caliphate's abolition, which involved doing away with the spiritual hierarchy and its influence on the community's progress. The *Sheriat*<sup>3</sup> European legal codes and court systems replaced the Ottoman Empire's laws to offer legal actions and punish transgressors. The religious school system that featured *Medresses*<sup>4</sup> was closed by Ataturk's reforms for the republic of Turkey. Additionally, the country adopted the European calendar, allowing women to dress more westernly and outlawing the traditional garb of the religious leaders.

In conclusion, Kemal had a strong influence on the republic of Turkey, considering that he did not receive any considerable backlash from the citizens. He is a true patriot who crushed the invaders of Turkey by putting an end to the most popular Ottoman dynasty, which had ruled for six centuries. Emerging nations emulated political, social, legal, economic, and cultural reforms. A nation's development requires adopting new strategies and ways of life that benefit society's political, social, and economic aspects. Ataturk's focus on educational reforms was thoughtful as it influenced the future generation and their way of life. The complete abolition of the Ottoman practice of life is achieved by transforming the youth and children of a country.

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<sup>3</sup> Islamic Rules

<sup>4</sup> Islamic Religious Schools

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