



REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

Modern day Turkey was founded in 1923, after Mustafa Kemal defeated the Ottoman Empire. Under his leadership, the country adopted wide-ranging social, legal, and political reforms. After a period of one-party rule, an experiment with multi-party politics led to the 1950 election victory of the opposition Democratic Party and the peaceful transfer of power. Since then, Turkish political parties have multiplied, but democracy has been fractured by times of instability and military coups (1960, 1971, 1980), which in each case eventually resulted in a return of political power to civilians. Turkey joined the UN in 1945 and in 1952 it became a member of NATO. In 1963, Turkey became an associate member of the European Community; it began membership talks with the EU in 2005. Over the past decade, economic reforms have contributed to a quickly growing economy.

Physical Geography

Official Name: Republic of Turkey

Region: Middle East

Size in Square Kilometers: Total: 783,562 km²

Bordering Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Iran, Iraq, and Syria

Physical Features: There is a high central plateau (Anatolia), a narrow coastal plain, and several mountain ranges.

Climate: The temperature in Turkey is temperate; hot, dry summers with mild, wet winters; harsher in the interior lands.

Cultural Geography

Population: 79,414,269 (estimate July 2015)

Ethnic Groups: Turkish 70-75%, Kurdish 18%, other minorities 7-12% (estimate 2008)

Official Language: **Turkish**

Other Languages Spoken: **Minority languages such as Kurdish.**

Capital: **Ankara (4.75 million)**

Other Major cities: **Istanbul (14.164 million); Izmir (3.04 million); Bursa (1.923 million); Adana (1.83 million); Gaziantep (1.528 million)**

Average Quality of Life: **Average**

Political Geography

Founded: **October 29, 1923**

Type of Government: **Parliamentary Republic**

Country's Leaders:

Chief of State: **President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (August 2014)**

Head of Government: **Prime Minister Binali Yildirim (May 2016)**

Deputy Prime Ministers: **Nurettin Canikli (May 2016), Veysi Kaynak (May 2016), Mehmet Simsek (November 2015), Yildirim Tugrul Turkes (August 2014), Numan Kurtulmus (August 2014)**

Country's Military: **495, 000 Deployable Forces**

Allies: **NATO member states, Saudi Arabia, Qatar**

Enemies: **North Korea, Russia, China, Iran, and Countries in which ISIS operates**

Economic Geography

Gross Domestic Product (GDP): **\$1.589 trillion USD (estimate 2015)**

Natural Resources: **Coal, iron ore, copper, chromium, antimony, mercury, gold, barite, borate, celestite (strontium), emery, feldspar, limestone, magnesite, marble, perlite, pumice, pyrites (sulfur), clay, arable land, hydropower**

Currency: **Turkish liras**

Major exports and imports:

Exports: **apparel, foodstuffs, textiles, metal manufactures, transport equipment**

Imports: **machinery, chemicals, semi-finished goods, fuels, transport equipment**

Biggest Trading Partners:

Exports: **Germany 9.3%, UK 7.3%, Iraq 5.9%, Italy 4.8%, US 4.5%, France 4.1% (2015)**

Imports: **China 12%, Germany 10.3%, Russia 9.9%, US 5.4%, Italy 5.1% (2015)**
